



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **NISHIUCHI, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **3723**

Serial No.: **09/901,044**

Examiner: **E.P. Morgan**

Filed: **July 10, 2001**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 6430

For: **DRY SURFACE TREATING APPARATUS AND DRY SURFACE TREATING METHOD USING THE SAME APPARATUS**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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April 20, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

Documents AA-AB and AF-AG were cited in a Chinese Office Action dated March 19, 2004. A copy of the Office Action and an English translation thereof is also enclosed.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

In accordance with 1.704(d), Applicants state that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a Foreign Patent Office and that this communication was not received by any individual


designated in 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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DWH/alw
Atty. Docket No. **010883**
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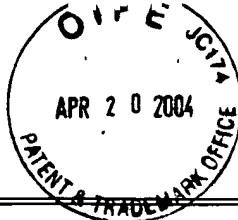


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO-1449 and references (4)
Chinese Office Action (03/19/04) w/translation

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No. 010883	Serial No. 09/901,044
	Applicant(s): NISHIUCHI, et al.	
	Filing Date: July 10, 2001	Group Art Unit: 3723

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA	4,003,164	Carpenter, Jr. et al.	01/18/77	51	13	04/22/74
_____	AB	3,948,003	Pletscher	04/06/76	51	164	09/25/74
_____	AC						
_____	AD						
_____	AE						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AF	11-347941	12/21/99	Japan	Abstract
_____	AG	1105619A	10/94/08	China	
_____	AH				
_____	AI				
_____	AJ				

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OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AK	Chinese Office Action dated March 19, 2004 with translation
_____	AL	
_____	AM	
_____	AN	
_____	AO	

Examiner	Date Considered
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